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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/936,602	02/08/2002	Michael Toft Overgaard	07039-145001	7259
7590	05/18/2005		EXAMINER	
Fish & Richardson Suite 3300 60 South Sixth Street Minneapolis, MN 55402			SWOPE, SHERIDAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1652	
DATE MAILED: 05/18/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/936,602	OVERGAARD ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Sheridan L. Swope	1652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 36 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 36 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's response, on April 21, 2005 to the First Action on the Merits of this case mailed November 18, 2004, is acknowledged. It is acknowledged that applicants have cancelled Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 11, and 12. Claim 36 is pending and is hereby reconsidered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Rejection of Claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bersinger et al, 1984 in view of Epstein et al, 1992, Harlow and Lane, 1988, and Oxvig et al, 1993, for the reasons set forth in the prior action, is maintained. In support of their request that said rejection be withdrawn, Applicants provide the following arguments. At no point does the Oxvig et al. reference teach or suggest that a person having ordinary skill in the art should make the recited antibody, let alone use the recited antibody to detect PAPP-A in a biological sample according to claim 36. Merely pointing out that commercial anti-PAPP-A preparations react with MBP "and probably with proMBP" (Oxvig et al. at page 12246) falls far short of suggesting that a person having ordinary skill in the art should use an antibody having specific binding affinity for PAPP-A, but not PAPP-A/pro major basic protein complex, as recited in claim 36.

This argument is not found to be persuasive. MPEP 2143.01 [R-2] states the following. "There are three possible sources for a motivation to combine references: the nature of the problem to be solved, the teachings of the prior art, and the knowledge of persons of ordinary

skill in the art." Bersinger et al teach that a problem of interest is to determine whether PAPP-A levels differ during the proliferative and luteal phases of the menstrual cycle (pg 1247, parg 2). Oxvig et al teach that commercially available anti-PAPP-A antibodies previously used to determine PAPP-A levels react with MBP and probably with proMBP and that results based on the use of said antibodies must be questioned (pg 12246, parg 3). For a person of ordinary skill in the art, said teachings suggest that preparation of antibodies specific for PAPP-A, which don't cross-react with MBP, proMBP, or the PAPP-A/MBP complex, should be prepared and used to measure PAPP-A levels during the menstrual cycle. As described in the prior action, Epstein et al and Harlow et al teach how to make and purify highly specific antibodies by immunoaffinity purification methods. For these reasons and those discussed in the prior action, rejection of Claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bersinger et al, 1984 in view of Epstein et al, 1992, Harlow and Lane, 1988, and Oxvig et al, 1993, is maintained.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sheridan L. Swope whose telephone number is 571-272-0943. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F; 9:30-7 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapura Achutamurthy can be reached on 571-272-0928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published application may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on the access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sheridan Lee Swope, Ph.D.


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